

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 802
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Robert Smith Sanders of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Robert Smith Sanders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sanders was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Sanders served with acumen and alacrity as the Director and Chief Physician of the Rutherford County Health Department and as the Rutherford County Medical Examiner, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and patients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, the son of William Josiah Sanders, Jr., and Inez Smith Sanders, and a native of Tullahoma, Robert Sanders graduated from Castle Heights Military Academy, where he served as the captain of the football team, and completed his undergraduate and medical school requirements at Vanderbilt University. He sought further medical training at Vanderbilt; and in San Francisco, California; Stockholm, Sweden; and Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, trained as a pediatrician, Dr. Sanders led the call for national reform in child restraint laws. He was instrumental in both the passage of the first mandatory child-safety-seat law in Tennessee in 1977, the first of its kind in the United States, and in the removal of the "Babes in Arms" amendment in 1981. His passion for child safety earned him the nickname "Dr. Seatbelt"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Sanders entered the public health domain in 1966 and was named as the Director and Chief Physician of the Rutherford County Health Department in

1969, a post he held until his retirement in 1991. Possessing a desire to serve his community, he served as the Medical Examiner for Rutherford County from 1983 until 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sanders was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Patricia Pelot Sanders, and was the proud father of Robert Smith Sanders, Jr., and Priscilla Pelot Sanders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Sanders leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Robert Smith Sanders, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Sanders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.